



6<sup>th</sup> PT/EQA Workshop – Rome 2008

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Report from WG5



## What new fields are emerging for PT/EQA?

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- Convenors:
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- Objectives:
  - Review the new fields for PT/EQA that are emerging and consider any challenges that this brings



## Q1: What new fields are emerging for PT/EQA?

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- Nanotechnology
- Biotechnology: not just DNA, also proteins  
ie. biomarkers for diabetes, CVD, obesity
- Residue analysis: drugs, hormones, growth promoters,  
doping
- Forensic
- WFD priority pollutants
- Sampling (in various fields)
- Post analytical PTs (interpretation)

## Q2: What new challenges do PT/EQA providers have to address? What are the barriers to introducing PT in new areas?

- Vicious circle: new idea – no legislation – few participants – low success / not rewarding
- Convince the stakeholders: legislators, industry, ...
- Increase awareness; Promotion - Networking
- Difficulties in sample development/preparation:
  - \* exotic sample – nanotech
  - \* sampling – organisation of field campaigns; reference site well characterised
  - \* stability of samples (micro-bio)
- COST



## Q3: What can be learnt from PT/EQA schemes operating in established fields?

- Most of the tools still apply
- Look for strong “drivers”, incl. Expert support – network
- Frequency to be considered case by case
- Need to be realistic when analysing “real samples”  
→ Too strict requirements from Standards  
(*i.e. homogeneity & stability*)
- Follow-up of a PT – educational/learning tool support to labs

Q4: Do the current international standards and guides for PT/EQA address the needs for these new fields?



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- Don't know yet
- Need to try it first, to identify what is missing



## Q5: Do these new fields present new challenges for the accreditation of PT/EQA?

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- No real challenges
- except finding experts in new fields, to allow proper assessment by the accreditation bodies